

Kingsclere,

Newbury,

14th April 1919.

To the Kingsclere Rural District Council,

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting you with my Report for the year 1918 I would call your attention:

It was a cold and damp one, although the rain was not excessive according to recent years, 34.54 inches in 24 days.

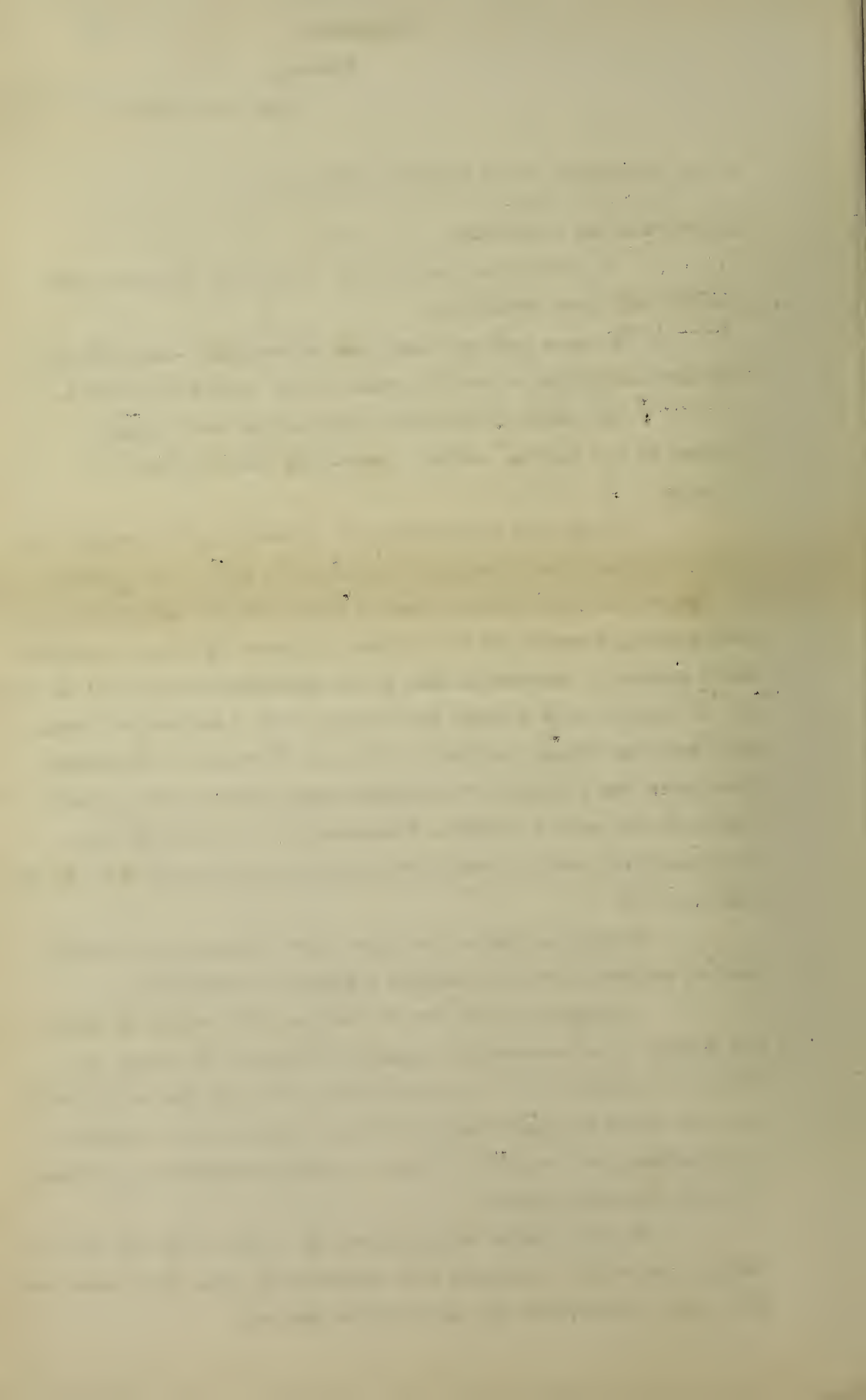
The month of September, the one so much looked forward to for holiday making, proved the wettest, 6.60 in 24 days.

Infectious sicknesses were prevalent all through, for in the earliest part Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were present. No sooner than they abated, Measles broke out and continued for many months, ceasing end of July, when epidemic Influenza commenced. Cases gradually increased, many of an aggravated type, till at the end of October this disease had become quite a serious outbreak. This state of things continued till just previous to Christmas when there was a lull but it returned again early in the present year with the same virulence. Pneumonia of a very active type and Bronchitis were the complications Medical Men had to be on the look out for.

During the whole year there were always some Schools closed, usually owing to sickness amongst the children.

DIPHTHERIA broke out in Woolton Hill School in March and I swabbed all attending, including Teachers and found one "carrier" a chronic of two years, whom I had excluded and treated for many weeks and has since kept free. A month later renewed developments, an absentee returned, again introducing the disease but this was soon checked.

In April cases of Diphtheria of a very virulent type at Tadley. Infection introduced from Basingstoke area. The cases were kept under observation but one died in Hospital.



Epidemic Influenza increased with the cold damp September till in October and November it was of alarming frequency causing 31 deaths, and a large proportion of Schools had to be closed, in fact all, with the exception of Newtown and Hannington.

Pneumonia now a notifiable disease, caused five deaths in connection with Influenza.

Birth Rate. It is important to note how during the years of the War this rate has gradually declined, this one totalling only 117. 65 Males. 52 Females, seven of these illegitimates, working out at 13.98 per 1000 population.

Deaths on the other hand increased, 122, an average of 16.33 per 1000 population. Deaths of Infants under one year 9, 6 males, 3 females viz 76.94 per 1000 registered births. Amongst those over 65 years of age 42 deaths were registered, the majority of these having obtained fourscore years or more.

Inquests. seven were held, four of these deaths were caused by accidents.

No houses of any class were erected. Under the new housing requirements many cottages should either be condemned or considerably renovated. These matters you can quite understand have been left in abeyance during the war.

Bakeryhouses, Dairies and Workshops have all been kept in good order. There are considerably more small Cowkeepers so that the obtaining of milk for Infant life has been fairly easily accessible.

Your Isolation Hospital has been quite equal to meet all demands made upon it.

For a considerable part of ~~this~~ the year a portion of the Workhouse was used as a lodging house for a batch of German Prisoners of War.

Together with the Inspector of Nuisances I have made systematic and surprise visits, never finding anything seriously defective.

I have made this report brief according to instructions received from headquarters, but now the War is over we shall ~~be~~ soon be called upon for more details. In my opinion our first important question will be Housing for the Working classes ~~and~~ and this should also entail providing of Baths. To me this seems impossible in individual cottages but the scheme should be carried out by the providing of both Hot and Cold Water Baths together with Wash houses in each Parish or Hamlet.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

Peg: Maples.

M.C.H.

